

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing sialylation and/or N-glycan charge of a glycosylated protein expressed by a glutamine auxotrophic human cell and of extending the viability of said cell, said method comprising ~~which comprises~~ transfecting a glutamine auxotrophic human cell with an exogenous DNA sequence encoding a glutamine synthetase to produce a transfected ~~glutamine auxotrophic~~ human cell and culturing said transfected ~~glutamine auxotrophic~~ human cell in a glutamine-free media such that said sialylation and/or N-glycan charge of said glycosylated protein is increased and the viability of said cell is extended.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein said glycosylated protein is encoded by an exogenous DNA sequence and is recovered from the culture of said transfected ~~glutamine auxotrophic~~ human cell.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 32, wherein said ~~glutamine auxotrophic human cell or said transfected glutamine auxotrophic human cell~~ is further transfected with an amplifiable gene encoding an enzyme, wherein said enzyme is dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), adenosine deaminase, asparagine synthetase, aspartate transcarbamylase, metallothionein-1, ornithine decarboxylase, P-

glycoprotein, ribonucleotide reductase, thymidine kinase or xanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl transferase.

35. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 33, wherein said ~~glutamine auxotrophic human cell or said~~ transfected ~~glutamine auxotrophic human cell~~ is further transfected with an amplifiable gene encoding an enzyme, wherein said enzyme is dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), adenosine deaminase, asparagine synthetase, aspartate transcarbamylase, metallothionein-1, ornithine decarboxylase, P-glycoprotein, ribonucleotide reductase, thymidine kinase or xanthine-guanine phosphoribosyl transferase.

36. (new) Method of claim 32 wherein the transfected cell is anchorage-independent and capable of growing in suspension in serum-free, glutamine-free medium.

37. (new) Method of claim 32 wherein the glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is an immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell.

38. (new) Method of claim 37 wherein the immortalized glutamine-auxotrophic human cell is a human fibrosarcoma cell.

39. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the human fibrosarcoma cell is a HT1080 cell line.

40. (new) Method of claim 32 wherein the glycosylated protein is erythropoietin.

41. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the erythropoietin is human erythropoietin.